

Decision-Making Considerations and Proposed Policy Priorities for 2019

Decision-Making Considerations

How to determine priority initiatives was discussed in a working session between members of the SPC on Planning and Development, Councillors and Administration. Based on the input received at the working session, will establish whether an initiative should be prioritized according to how it addresses or supports the following considerations.

Enabling economic prosperity

Enhancing investor confidence in Calgary is a primary goal for Council and key towards continued economic prosperity. Priority should be placed on work that improves investor confidence in Calgary.

Focusing City initiatives and investment in areas experiencing demand and activity

Prioritize work in areas where community readiness and development activity align. The goal is to provide stakeholders in these areas with modern policies so that mutually desired developments can proceed.

Supporting people and communities to achieve mutual goals

Prioritize initiatives that revise The City's planning processes and community planning approach with the goal of enhancing communities' and Calgarians' ability to participate meaningfully in the planning of their communities.

The impacts and potential of City investments

Priority should be placed on initiatives where The City's has capacity to invest and the achieved benefits of the investment support Council's priorities.

Efficiency and impact of the resources required and benefits achieved.

Priority should be placed on employing policy resources efficiently and effectively to achieve benefits that align with Council's priorities and which do not remove resources from the priority areas.

The proposed decision-making also corresponds to the methodology introduced with the New Community Growth Strategy. In it priorities were identified based on three considerations: 1) their alignment to the strategic vision and goals of the Municipal Development Plan; 2) a focus on areas where market demand and activity exist; and 3) financial impacts of the project.

Proposed Policy Priority Areas 2019

1. Advancing Calgary's Strategic Vision – The Municipal Development Plan and Developed Areas Guidebook

Work has already begun on the review of the Municipal Development Plan / Calgary Transportation Plan and it requires dedicated resources. The Developed Areas Guidebook is a volume of the Municipal Development Plan and must inform amendments to it. More transparency and purposeful attention would be achieved by clearly identifying the Municipal Development Plan and Developed Areas Guidebook as a joint priority in 2019.

2. Advancing the Integrated Growth Strategy

Advancing the integrated growth strategy remains a Council priority. This strategy aligns the individual strategies for new communities, established neighbourhoods and industrial areas to establish a comprehensive, city-wide approach to investment, funding and growth decisions. Through ongoing collaboration with the development industry and communities, it will enable The City to identify appropriate investments and funding mechanisms and to leverage market activity towards a balanced implementation of the Municipal Development Plan. In 2019 the priority for this work will be on the Established Areas Growth and Change Strategy and the ongoing collaboration through the Industry/City workplan.

3. Inclusive and Modern Community Planning – The Multi-Community Plan Approach

This new approach is designed to create more efficient and inclusive local area plans and to provide them to stakeholders more swiftly. It will improve Calgarians' ability to participate in the planning of their community in a more inclusive and comprehensive manner.

4. Main Streets and Transit Oriented Development Implementation Strategy

Implementing Main Streets remains a Council priority. As these two initiatives have similar content, issues, objectives and geographic areas they will benefit from a mutual focus.

5. A Renewed Land Use Bylaw

This group of initiatives supports the move to a planning system that is more outcome-oriented and in which there is clear line-of-sight between the City's vision, the community plans and the Land Use Bylaw. Instead of minor, incremental amendments, changes to the Land Use Bylaw should be undertaken with a view towards achieving comprehensive change and overall improved outcomes for great communities.

6. Supporting Downtown

Council is very concerned about the impacts that the current economic situation is having on Calgary's downtown. Initiatives that support the business community and enhance the resilience of office, commercial and development activity in the downtown should be given high priority. Priority should be placed on opportunities to support corporate initiatives and providing resources to either support or lead initiatives as required.